

AMENDMENT

Please amend the claims as follows. All pending claims are reproduced below, including those that remain unchanged.

1. (Currently amended) A method for transmitting electronic messages comprising the steps of:

generating a plurality of lists of mailing addresses, each of said lists containing a portion of a primary mailing list;

allocating a plurality of independent electronic mail delivery resources wherein the plurality of electronic mail delivery resources are capable of processing separate ones of the plurality of lists in parallel;

providing separate ones of the plurality of lists or groups of the plurality of lists to the plurality of electronic mail delivery resources;

creating the electronic mail messages by the plurality of electronic mail delivery resources based on the lists and on generic message content data; and

transmitting the electronic mail messages with the plurality of electronic mail delivery resources to addressees contained in the lists sent to the plurality of electronic mail delivery resources.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

initiating a primary electronic mail transmission process in a first computer, wherein the first computer is capable of communicating with the plurality of electronic mail delivery resources.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the first computer is a database server containing the lists of mailing addresses.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

verifying that an electronic mail message has been sent to each addressee set forth in the lists of mailing addresses.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
partitioning the primary mailing list into the plurality of lists of mailing addresses.
6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
designating at least one bounced mail resource capable of receiving any bounced
messages or replies; and
wherein the at least one bounced mail resource is capable of providing delivery failure
information in a compact form.
7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
reviewing mail transmission progress information generated by the plurality of electronic
mail delivery resources.
8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7 further comprising:
restarting any stalled or failed electronic mail delivery resource identified in the
reviewing; and
wherein the restarting is from a checkpoint.
9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
automatically updating the primary mailing list based on returned mail information.
10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein:
the primary mailing list is stored at a location separated from the plurality of electronic
mail delivery resources.
11. (Currently amended) A system for transmitting electronic messages comprising:
a means for generating a plurality of lists of mailing addresses, each of said lists
containing a portion of a primary mailing list;

a means for allocating a plurality of independent electronic mail delivery resources wherein the plurality of electronic mail delivery resources are capable of processing separate ones of the plurality of lists in parallel;

a means for providing separate ones of the plurality of lists or groups of the plurality of lists to the plurality of electronic mail delivery resources;

means for creating the electronic mail messages by the plurality of electronic mail delivery resources based on the lists and on generic message content data; and

means for transmitting the electronic mail messages with the plurality of electronic mail delivery resources to addressees contained in the lists sent to the plurality of electronic mail delivery resources.

12. (Previously presented) The system of claim 11, further comprising:

a first computer for initiating a primary electronic mail transmission process, wherein the first computer is capable of communicating with the plurality of electronic mail delivery resources.

13. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the first computer is a database server containing the lists of mailing addresses.

14. (Previously presented) The system of claim 11, further comprising:

a means for verifying that an electronic mail message has been sent to each addressee set forth in the lists of mailing addresses.

15. (Previously presented) The system of claim 11, further comprising:

a means for partitioning the primary mailing list into the plurality of lists of mailing addresses.

16. (Previously presented) The system of claim 11, further comprising:

a means for designating at least one bounced mail resource capable of receiving any bounced messages or replies; and

wherein the at least one bounced mail resource is capable of providing delivery failure information in a compact form.

17. (Previously presented) The system of claim 11, further comprising:
a means for reviewing mail transmission progress information generated by the plurality of electronic mail delivery resources.

18. (Previously presented) The system of claim 17, further comprising:
a means for restarting any stalled or failed electronic mail delivery resource identified with said means for reviewing progress; and
wherein the restarting is from a checkpoint.

19. (Previously presented) The system of claim 11, further comprising:
a means for automatically updating the primary mailing list based on returned or bounced mail information.

20. (Previously presented) The system of claim 11, wherein:
the primary mailing list is stored at a location separated from the plurality of electronic mail delivery resources.

21. (Currently amended) A machine readable medium having instructions stored thereon to cause a system to:
generate a plurality of lists of mailing addresses, each of said lists containing a portion of a primary mailing list;
allocate a plurality of independent electronic mail delivery resources wherein the plurality of electronic mail delivery resources are capable of processing separate ones of the plurality of lists in parallel;
provide separate ones of the plurality of lists or groups of the plurality of lists to the plurality of electronic mail delivery resources;
create electronic mail messages based on the lists and on generic message content data
wherein the creation is by the plurality of electronic mail delivery resources; and

transmit the electronic mail messages with the plurality of electronic mail delivery resources to addressees contained in the lists sent to the electronic mail delivery resources.

22. (Previously presented) A method for transmitting electronic messages, comprising:
generating a plurality of lists of mailing addresses, each of said lists containing a portion of a primary mailing list, wherein a plurality of electronic mail delivery resources are capable of processing separate ones of the plurality of lists in parallel;

providing separate ones of the plurality of lists or groups of the plurality of lists to the plurality of electronic mail delivery resources;

wherein each one of the plurality of electronic mail delivery resources can create electronic mail messages based on the lists and on generic message content data; and

wherein the electronic mail messages can be transmitted by the plurality of electronic mail delivery resources to addressees contained in the lists sent to the plurality of electronic mail delivery resources.

23. (Previously presented) A machine readable medium having instructions stored thereon to cause a system to:

generate a plurality of lists of mailing addresses, each of said lists containing a portion of a primary mailing list, wherein a plurality of electronic mail delivery resources are capable of processing separate ones of the plurality of lists in parallel;

provide separate ones of the plurality of lists or groups of the plurality of lists to the plurality of electronic mail delivery resources;

wherein each one of the plurality of electronic mail delivery resources can create electronic mail messages based on the lists and on generic message content data; and

wherein the electronic mail messages can be transmitted by the plurality of electronic mail delivery resources to addressees contained in the lists sent to the plurality of electronic mail delivery resources.

24. (Previously presented) A system for transmitting electronic messages, comprising:
a plurality of lists of mailing addresses, each of said lists containing a portion of a primary mailing list;

a plurality of electronic mail delivery resources each capable of receiving one of the plurality of lists and each capable of working in parallel to perform:

generating electronic mail messages from generic message content data; and
transmitting the generated electronic mail messages to addressees in one of the plurality of lists; and

wherein the number of electronic mail delivery resources is estimated to satisfy a target delivery time.

25. (Previously presented) The system of claim 24 wherein:
the number of electronic mail delivery resources is based on the number of addressees in the primary mailing list.
26. (Previously presented) The system of claim 24, further comprising:
one or more bounced mail resources capable of modifying the primary address list based on failed delivery of electronic mail messages.
27. (Previously presented) The system of claim 24 wherein:
the plurality of lists of mailing addresses is determined based on recognizing that a number of members of the primary address list reside in a common network.
28. (Previously presented) The system of claim 24 wherein:
an electronic mail delivery resource in the plurality of electronic mail delivery resources is automatically restarted if it stalls or fails.
29. (Previously presented) The system of claim 24, further comprising:
a checkpoint system capable of restarting any stalled or failed electronic mail delivery resource in the plurality of electronic mail delivery resources wherein the restarting is from a checkpoint.
30. (Previously presented) The system of claim 24, further comprising:

one or more request processing resources capable of processing requests for changes to the primary mailing list.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein:
an independent electronic mail delivery resource in the plurality of independent electronic mail delivery resources can be one of: a mail transfer agent, an independent computing device, and a process.
32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein:
the number of electronic mail transmission resources is estimated to satisfy a target delivery time.
33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein:
the allocating can be delayed until the plurality of independent electronic mail delivery resources are available.
34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
transmitting the generic message content data to at least one of the plurality of electronic mail delivery resources.
35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein:
the plurality of electronic mail delivery resources is located on a first local network; and
wherein the lists and the generic message content data are transmitted from a second local network to the first local network.
36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
designating at least one request processing resource capable of processing requests for changes to the primary mailing list; and
wherein the at least one request processing resource is capable of providing subscription change information in a compact form.

37. (Previously presented) The system of claim 11 wherein:
the plurality of electronic mail delivery resources is located on a first local network; and
wherein the lists and the generic message content data are transmitted from a second local network to the first local network.
38. (Previously presented) The system of claim 11, further comprising:
a means for designating at least one separate request processing resource capable of processing requests for changes to the primary mailing list; and
wherein the at least one separate request processing resource is capable of providing subscription change information in a compact form.
39. (Previously presented) The system of claim 11, further comprising:
the means for transmitting the electronic mail messages can be one of: a mail transfer agent, an independent computing device, and a process.
40. (Previously presented) The system of claim 11 wherein:
the number of electronic mail transmission resources is estimated to satisfy a target delivery time.
41. (Currently amended) A fault-tolerant method for transmitting electronic messages comprising the steps of:
allocating a plurality of independent electronic mail delivery resources wherein the plurality of electronic mail delivery resources are capable of processing separate ones of a plurality of lists of mailing addresses in parallel;
creating the electronic mail messages by the plurality of electronic mail delivery resources based on the lists and on generic message content data;
transmitting the electronic mail messages with the plurality of electronic mail delivery resources to addressees contained in the lists sent to the plurality of electronic mail delivery resources; and
restarting any stalled or failed electronic mail delivery resource wherein the restarting is from a checkpoint.

42. (Previously presented) The method of claim 41, further comprising:
verifying that an electronic mail message has been sent to each addressee set forth in the
lists of mailing addresses.